

Page 7, replace the first full paragraph beginning at line 12 with the amended paragraph as follows:

Figure 1 shows part of a structural element in relief or block 1 of the tread of a tire. Only the upper part of said block 1 is shown, the running face or surface 2 corresponding to the tread. Conventionally, such an element in relief or block 1 is delimited by substantially longitudinal grooves and grooves substantially transverse to the direction of travel, that is to say substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the tire. The function of these longitudinal and transverse grooves is in particular to contain and remove the water which may be present on the ground.

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 with the amended paragraph as follows:

Figure 1 is a view along the axis of rotation of the tire, that is to say in the direction transverse to the direction of travel shown by the arrow 3. The block 1 comprises incisions 4 over at least part of its height. These incisions are provided in particular to create supplementary ridges 5 on the surface of the tread 2, so as to improve grip of the tire on damp surfaces, said supplementary ridges allowing the film of water on the surface of the ground to be cut through more frequently. The incisions 4 of Figure 1 are produced by the methods known to the person skilled in the art, so as to form broken (e.g., zigzag) lines, so that one of the side surfaces of the incision includes portions overlying respective portions of the other side surface of the same incision. The invention is not of course limited to such incisions and applies to all types of incisions. The incisions shown have the advantage, however, of being of the self-locking type and of contributing to an increase in longitudinal

rigidity. In effect, independently of the invention, it would appear that the geometry of these incisions results in locking of the walls one by the other when they move towards one another due to shearing of the block 1, and thus of the walls of the incisions in the longitudinal direction, when the tire rotates. Other incisions of the broken, self-locking type do exist, for example incisions exhibiting wavy lines over their entire depth. The incisions may also be of the type whose broken walls each comprise zones in relief formed by protrusions and cavities or indeed incisions of variable thickness over their height. These various types of incision are described in particular in French Patents No. 2 722 144 and No. 2 804 905 (corresponding to Publication WO 03/029031).